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SOURCE Die Tat, No 119, 1950.SOVIET UNION STOPS DIAMOND PURCHASES

The following article is taken from the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant.

According to information of the Belgian Diamond Workers' Association in Antwerp, the Soviet Union bought on the Antwerp market 8,000 to 9,000 carats of industrial diamonds per month up to the end of 1949. In January 1950, only 40 carats of industrial diamonds were purchased, while in February and March there were no Soviet purchases of diamonds at all.

The following speculations are advanced in Antwerp diamond circles for the cessation of Soviet purchases of industrial diamonds: (1) shortage of foreign currency, (2) sufficient reserves, (3) discovery of diamond mines on Soviet territory, (4) manufacture of synthetic diamonds by the USSR, (5) another source of import which is more advantageous to the Soviet Union.

In connection with synthetic production of diamonds, it is thought that the Soviet Union might have discovered an inexpensive method of producing diamonds. Until now the manufacture of artificial diamonds, although possible in the laboratory, has been more expensive than real diamonds.

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